
Training and News for the Seattle Auxiliary Communication Service

New Organizational Structure Implemented at Spring Meeting

By Randy Schaffer, N7OYN

The Seattle Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) held its spring meeting at the Seattle Public Utilities Operations Center on the morning of Saturday, May 22, 2004.

An agenda circulated before the meeting indicated that the following topics would be covered: planning for the new communications center at the new Emergency Operations Center, recommendations for the restructuring of ACS based on community teams (see *Leadership Team Meets*, page 5. ed.), planning for a fall exercise, and training.

Twenty six members attended the meeting. It was decided to divide ACS into six city zones as follows.

Southeast Zone: Dennis Garrett KB7KXD, and Christopher Osborn KD7DVD (team leader).

Southwest Zone: Curt Black

WR5J (team leader), Harris Johnson N7SOQ, and Johathan Scherch KK7PW.

East Central (including EOC) Zone: Dan Miklovic KC7UTH, Randy Schaffer N7OYN, Matt Thomas KD7PPK (team leader).

West Central Zone: Paul Leonard W7LMX, Dave Prince WB0RAZ (team leader), and Mark Sheppard N7LYE.

Northeast (including NOAA) Zone: Paul Beringer NG7Z, George Boswell K7YHB (team leader), David Cook WD7DWC,



Photo by Mark Sheppard N7LYE

QRV?

QRV? = "Are you prepared?"

*QRV? is the Newsletter of the Seattle
Auxiliary Communication Service*

City of Seattle
Emergency Management

ACS Net & Disaster Coordination
Weekly Net, Mondays at 7:00 p.m.
146.96 MHz

ACS Primary Message Channels
Primary VHF 146.96 MHz
Primary UHF 443.00 MHz/tone 141.3
Simplex Citywide 146.56 MHz
Simplex East Sector 145.59 MHz
Simplex West Sector 147.58 MHz

ACS 6 Meter Frequency
53.250 MHz (tone 100 Hz)

ACS Website
www.cityofseattle.org/eoc/acs

State & County Nets
Washington State Emergency
Mondays at 5:30 p.m.
Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.
3.985 MHz

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King County ARES
Sundays at 8:00 p.m.
146.82 MHz (tone 103.5)

Please direct inquiries about the
Auxiliary Communication Service to:

Mark Sheppard, N7LYE
ACS Manager
Seattle EOC

2320 4th Avenue,
Seattle, WA 98121-1718
voice - 206 684 5027
FAX - 206 470 6715

Mark.Sheppard@Seattle.Gov

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Please direct letters, articles, and
inquiries about **QRV?** to the editor:

Peter Smith N7BYP
(206) 284-2098
n7byp@arrl.net

From the Editor

Cellular Service

Here's a question for you. How reliable is cellular service? I can imagine your reply: a loud NOT VERY! I'd agree that when we're talking about *telephone* cellular service, reliability is certainly not a strength. We'd better not count on cell phones during that emergency for which we've all been preparing. The ultimate unreliability of cell phones and other regular communications services is the primary reason for our existence!

Alright, here's another question for you. Is cellular service always unreliable during emergencies? My answer to that is NO. Cellular service may be just what we need to respond to provide emergency communications. I'm not contradicting myself, that's a trick question. I'm not referring to *telephone* cellular service, but rather the "cellular" *auxiliary communications* service we'd provide through our cellular organization.

At a recent meeting of your ACS leadership group I heard the term "cellular" used to describe an organizational structure through which ACS would be organized into a small number of separate, self-reliant subgroups to serve designated areas of the city. There are powerful benefits associated with a cellular organization for ACS. It can provide new and effective means for recruiting those new

From the EOC

By Jim Mullen, Director
Seattle Emergency
Management

An interesting issue that is developing with respect to Homeland Security (and mercifully, has thus far escaped both Presidential candidates' attention) is the volume of anti terrorism money that is flowing, where that money is going, and how it is being spent. I do think it would be merciful if the debate about the amount, the recipients, and the choices on spending were to remain out of a highly charged political atmosphere. It is a serious government issue, but neither (OK, none of if you count independent campaigns) candidate can really do justice to the issue in a sound byte, and sometimes it's best to let professionals solve problems.

The volume of money that has come down from the new Department of Homeland Security is eagerly sought by cash-starved local and regional and even state governments. It is both a lot, and not enough, because homeland security brings new roles for non federal agencies, new accountability, and is accompanied by huge expectations from the public and the Congress that these measures will make us all safer. One wonders if the federal faucet ever closes (it will eventually) how the new roles and responsibilities locals have assumed will be sustained.

Time Magazine recently referred to the "where the money is

ACS Participates In Successful Communication Academy 2004

By Peter Smith N7BYP

“Interesting,” “informative,” “great information.” All these terms were used by participants in describing Communications Academy 2004. As in the past, the Academy was offered over a two day period and again, as usual, it occurred on a Saturday and Sunday to allow the greatest number of people to attend.

The Academy began on Saturday morning with a keynote address on “Managing the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Function” by Jerry Boyd, KW7J, current District 6

Emergency Coordinator for Baker, Grant, Harney and Malheur Counties, Oregon ARES/RACES. Jerry led a challenging discussion of the changing situation with regard to managing volunteer radio operators. This was followed by eleven workshops and presentations that were offered on two simultaneous tracks for the remainder of the day.

Sunday sessions began with a second keynote address, “Communications Interoperability in Washington State” by Don Miller, the Telecommunications and Warnings Systems Manager for Washington State Emergency Management. Issues and advances in communications within our state were outlined. Similarly to Saturday, a number of workshops and presentations continued in two par-

allel tracks for the remainder of the day. The workshops and presentations covered many topics of interest to emergency communicators and ranged from technical, such as NVIS antennas to operational, such as “lessons not learned.”

Emergency communications vehicles from local amateur radio organizations as well as FEMA were on display.

As in past years, Marina Zuetell, N7LSL, did an outstanding job in leading the planning committee which consisted of representatives from a number of area emergency communications organizations. Members representing ACS on the planning committee were Mark Sheppard, N7LYE, Libe Napat, KB7WCE, and Peter Smith, N7BYP. — — — — —

Comments from Academy Participants



Greatly improved
George Boswell
K7YHB



Great presentations
Libe Napat KB7WCE



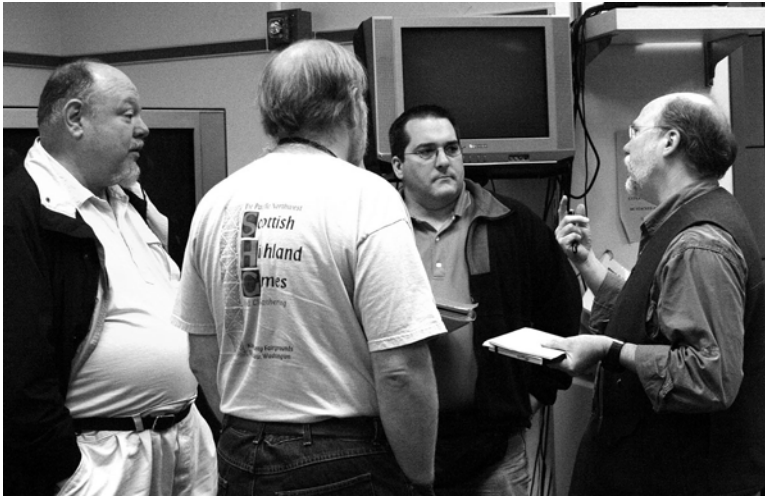
Very good, excellent
Bill Ehler K7NZV



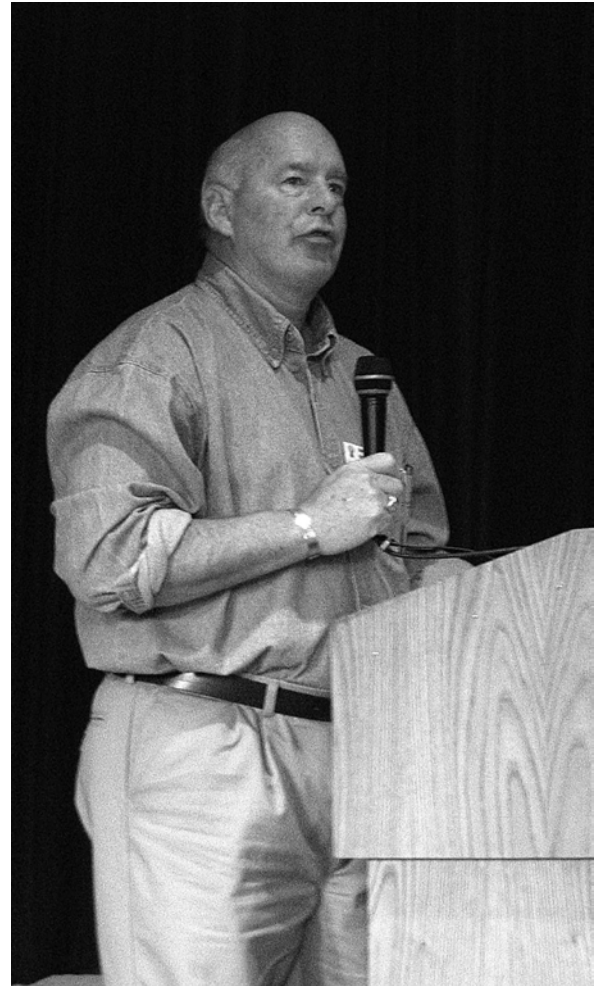
*Very informative –
great education for
lots of skills*
Joe Gwynne
KD7YGC

Photos by Peter Smith, N7BYP

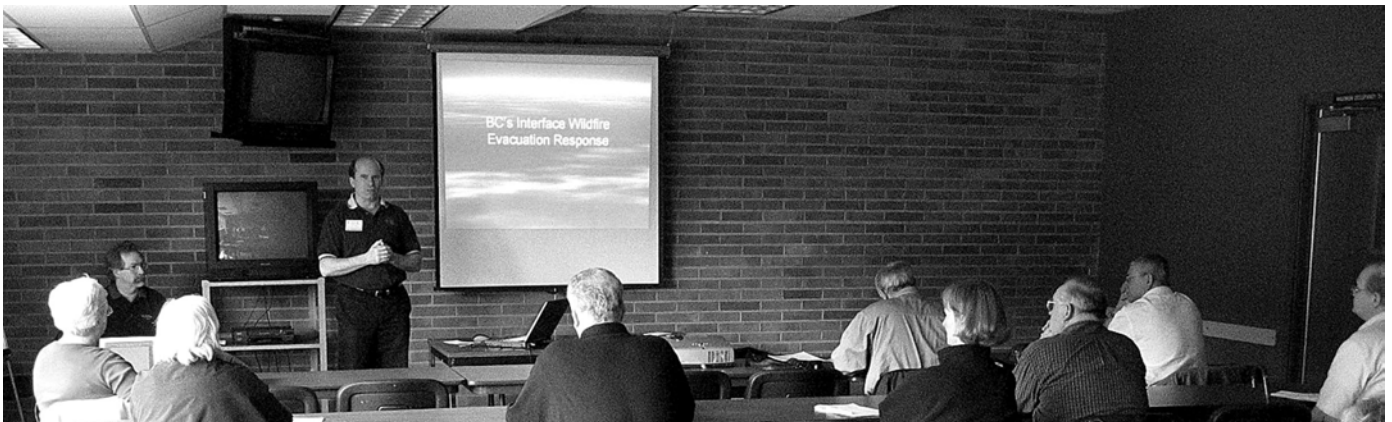
An ACS Scrapbook



Spring ACS Meeting



Academy 2004



EOC, from Page 2

going” issue as the “fortification of Wyoming” approach. It seems that some selections are out of balance with the common perception of appropriate targets. States with limited populations can counter that they have a lot to lose, as well as New York and California, and that their margin for loss of tourism or crimps in the business environment is fairly small. So, that debate is underway, between those who “got” and those who feel they did not “get” nearly enough.

The burden of how to spend the money, and where to prioritize, has proved to be a major challenge. The timetables for spending Urban Area Security Initiative funds around the country are relatively short: requirements and restrictions on the use of those funds (personnel? equipment?) have caused some angst and many public safety oriented professional associations have been lobbying Congress for greater flexibility in local decision making re the selection of spending priorities.

These are national issues, and note that I have not mentioned our city government to this point. Seattle is part of this national discussion, and we are taking a reasoned approach as we determine how best to allocate our resources, and improve our capability. The national solutions will play out over time, and there are major national issues that transcend political interests.

Locally, we need to take stock of what we as a City can accomplish to make our community and our region safer. When

Leadership Team Meets

By Peter Smith N7BYP

On Thursday, May 20, the Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) leadership team met at the Seattle Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to review plans for the new EOC, to examine the current status of ACS, and to explore various approaches to growing the organization to meet future communications needs in the city and region. Present at the meeting were ACS Manager Mark Sheppard (N7LYE), Dan Miklovic (KC7UTH), Don Moore (K7DEM), Randy Schaffer (N7OYN), Jonathan Scherch (KK7PW), Peter Smith (N7BYP), and Marina Zuetell (N7LSL).

Mark reviewed factors influencing the design of the communications center in the new EOC and showed an early sketch of a floor plan for such a facility. It included three net control stations as well as individual workstations for warning and non-ham communications, interagency amateur radio, medical services team, digital messaging, and audio-visual operations. A manager’s workstation was also included. Design details including number of entrances, use of a glass partition between the communications center and the rest of the EOC, and operator’s positions were discussed. Updated plans

will be reviewed at a later time.

Because the two deputy RACES officers have stepped down from their duties the time is appropriate to rethink the entire organizational structure of ACS. A number of issues facing ACS were discussed. One of the most important of these involves membership and recruiting. The organization will require significant increases in membership to fully staff the EOC, community centers, and other communications posts for emergency communications deployments. A number of additional issues ranging from security to site management to training emergent volunteers were raised. It was agreed that ACS faces important challenges that must be addressed if it is to continue to fulfill its mission.

The idea of decentralizing leadership, recruitment, and training was explored and everyone thought it held much potential. Under a decentralized, “cellular” approach, the city would be divided into geographically separate regions, each to be serviced by an ACS sub-group. Each of the sub-groups would be lead by its own leadership team, would hold nets, and would meet on a monthly basis. All members of ACS would meet together on a quarterly basis. It is anticipated that training and support will be supplied by the ACS leadership team and that training materials, meeting agendas, net protocols, and other materials will be standardized and made available to all of the regional city ACS

See **EOC**, Page 6

See **Leadership Team**, Page 6

Meeting, from Page 1

Sandy Cook KD7EED, Bill Dockstader W7LSK, Jim Hicks K7BDL, David Holdsworth KJ7PW, John Lever AC7Q, Harry Lewis W7JWJ, Mary Lewis W7QEP, and Donald Moore K7DEM.

Northwest Zone: Abigail Chang KD7PWJ, Bill Ehler K7NZV (team leader), Darryl Heasley KK7JE, and Michael Pearson KD7PVT.

Community team leaders are encouraged to contact their groups, find the other ACS members in their areas and then hold meetings. Because of the great importance of recruiting new members, a goal of recruiting 206 new members by 2006 was stressed

Leadership Team, from Page 5

teams. A leadership council composed of regional team leaders would meet regularly under the direction of the ACS Manager.

Several issues and questions have yet to be resolved and answered. For example, how will a cellular ACS organization establish linkages between itself and city and regional emergency communications organizations? How will emergent volunteers be trained and managed? How will specific communications sites not affiliated with community centers be staffed? These and other questions will be addressed as the new organizational plan is implemented.

EOC, from Page 5

“best practices” are referenced, it’s clear to me that ACS has led the way in establishing one of the finest emergency communications programs around. Keep it up - the rest of the country may catch up to you someday.

Editor, from Page 2

members who will be necessary in future deployments. It can also strengthen our organization by encouraging ACS growth and activity in the neighborhoods.

Cellular service has great potential. To reach that potential, your help will be essential as we implement this new organizational structure.

QRV? - Seattle ACS

Office of Emergency Management
Seattle Police Department
2320 4th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98121-1718